

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024WH006SA
Name of School Age Service:	Child's Play ABA
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Carole McGuinness
Address of School Age Service:	3 Oak House, Riverview, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath
Eircode:	N91 H9NN

Date(s) of Inspection:	14 May 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Not applicable	PM	13

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co. Offaly R35K1W4
Inspection undertaken by:	A Spain
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect
Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service:	Child's Play ABA is a standalone school age service caring for children in the age range of 4 to 15 years. Children currently in attendance are in the age range of 5 to 10 years. The service is operational between 8.00 and
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	9.00am and between 1.30 and 5.30pm, operating for 50 weeks of the year. Rooms in use include a playroom, sanitary accommodation for children, a staffroom, a storeroom and an office. Meals provided by the service include breakfast and dinner. The service is located in a commercial complex in Kilbeggan town, Co Westmeath
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Staffing:	The service is staffed by eight staff members. Two additional staff members are employed as cleaners in the service. The registered provider does not work directly in the service.
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Additional Information:	The inspector conducted a planned focused inspection of the service.
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Legislation

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of School Age Services in Ireland, and its role is to promote and monitor the safety and quality of school age care provision in accordance with the following legislation:

- The Child and Family Agency Act 2013, Part 12.
- Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022.
- The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018).

A school age service means any early years service, play group, day nursery, crèche, day-care or other similar service which:

- a) caters for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or post-primary education,
- b) provides a range of activities that are developmental, educational and recreational in manner, which take place outside of school hours, the primary purpose of which is to care for children where their parents are unavailable, and
- c) the basis for access to which is made publicly known to the parents and guardians of the children referred to in point (a) above.

It is the responsibility of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of school age children and the above legislation authorises Tusla to assess compliance with the Regulations.

Inspection Methodology:

The inspection is unannounced to assess compliance with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018), Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022, and the Child Care Act 1991, Section 58 as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

The findings on inspection are gathered through a triangulation method, including:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation.
- Direct observation.
- Discussion with relevant staff.

This inspection aims to determine the extent to which service is appropriate for the care, safety, and wellbeing of children in accordance with the regulations cited above.

Inspection findings are documented in the School Age Services inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have corrected the non-compliance and how they will prevent them from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements, an escalation process may be commenced.

The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit CAPA responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the Inspectorate body.

Acknowledgements:

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, registered provider, person in charge, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

On inspection, the registered provider was found to be compliant in relation to the following:

Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures;

Regulation 9(2): Staffing levels;

Regulation 11: Premises;

Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures

(1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent, taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

(2) The procedures specified in paragraph 1 shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

The inspector reviewed the files for the registered provider and ten staff members working in the service.

(1)(a)

Two written and validated references from past employers were held on file in respect of six staff members.

(b)

Two written and validated references from reputable sources were held on file in respect of one staff member. Two written references from reputable sources were also held on file for the registered provider.

(a)(b)

A written and validated reference from a past employer and a written and validated reference from a reputable source were held on file in respect of the remaining three staff members.

(c)

A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána was held on file in respect of all staff members working in the service and the registered provider. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years in respect of all staff members.

(d)

Police clearance was held of file for a staff member who had lived outside of the state for over six consecutive months as an adult.

(2)

Records held on file confirmed that the necessary vetting procedures were conducted prior to appointment of staff to work directly with the children.

Regulation 9: Staffing levels

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph (1), a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is a minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children at all times while the service is operating.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(2)

The minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children was maintained on the day of inspection. On the arrival of the inspector at 3.10pm, two adults cared for 13 children in the school age room. At 4.47pm, the two adults cared for the 9 children remaining in the service. The inspector reviewed the childrens attendance record and the staff roster for the week of 20 April 2026. Records confirmed that the maximum number of children in daily attendance was 18 children with two staff members present daily.

Regulation 11: Premises

A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that-

- (a) an outdoor space to which the school age children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or*
- (b) where no such space is provided, the school age children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor space.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

(b)

The service had a record of completed risk assessments for the local outdoor spaces used by the service to take children to daily. The outdoor spaces used by the service included two separate parks, a green, a biodiversity garden and a school library.

The risk assessments included details of the locations for the outings, dates attended, adult:child ratios maintained, weather conditions, provision of a mobile phone, first aid box, suncream,

snacks, water, play equipment and wipes. Risk assessments were signed by the staff member who conducted the risk assessment.

Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

It shall be the duty of every person providing an early years service to take all reasonable measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending the service and to comply with regulations made by the Minister under this Part.

Regulatory Requirement Met

Two staff members had First Aid Responder (FAR) training with an expiry date of 26 October 2026.

A staff member had emergency paediatric first aid training with an expiry date of 19 April 2026.